

Richard Henry (or Hengist) Horne (1803-84)
on Wm. Hy. Ireland.

(13,137) Sir Hudson Lowe.—The book in defence of Sir Hudson Lowe was written by one of his descendants, and called "The Real Martyr of St. Helena". It was published about 1912, and is now out of print.—F. W. G., Japan.

Richard Henry (or Hengist) Horne (1803-84)

From Nat. Dictionary of National Biography

Author, born London 1st January 1803. Educated Sandhurst with view of entering E. I. Co's service, but became Midship in Mexican Navy, and served in war against Spain. At restoration of peace (after recovering from yellow fever) he went to United States and visited Indian encampments.

He was shipwrecked in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and broke two ribs when at Niagara Falls.

Returned from Nova Scotia to England in a timber vessel, on which the crew mutinied and later the ship took fire.

In the "Monthly Repository" over the signature M. I. D. he wrote an account of his early experiences. Began his literary career in 1828 by a poem called "Hecatompylos" in the Athenaeum.

In 1833 he published 'Exposition of the False Medium and Barriers excluding Men of Genius from the Public'. In 1834 "Spirit of Peers and People, a National Tragicomedy."

Between July 1836 and June 1837 he edited the "Monthly Repository". In 1837 he published "Cosmo de Medici," a Tragedy.

In 1839 to 1846 Horne corresponded with Elizabeth Barrett (Mrs. Browning). Letters of Elizabeth B. Browning addressed to Richard Hengist Horne" was published in 1877.

In 1840 he published "Gregory VII a Tragedy" "1841 " " " Three Poems of Geoffrey Chaucer Modernized" also 'History of Napoleon in 2 volumes.

About this time he was a Commissioner to Report on Employment of Children etc. in Mines and Manufactures.

In 1843 he published "Orion, an Epic Poem in Ten Books" by which he is chiefly known. The first three editions were published & the forthright Edgar Allan Poe praised this work.

In 1844 he published "A New Spirit of the Age" which are essays on distinguished contemporaries Mrs. Browning and Robert Bell assisted in this work which was illustrated with portraits.

In 1846 he published "The Good-natured Bear", "Two Stories for Children", "Memoirs of a London Doll", "Ballad Romances", "Life of Van Amburgh by Ephraim Watts", "Gottlieb Einholter or the Philanthropic Assassin" which appeared in 'Howitt's Journal' and republished under the title of "Murder Heroes".

In 1847 he married Miss Foggs, but he was not fitted to lead a domestic life.

In 1848 he published "Judas Iscariot, a Tragedy"

" 1850 " " " The Poor Artist

" 1851 " " " The Dreamer & the Work

In 1852 Horne went with Wm. Howitt to Australia where he served as Commander of the Gold Escort in Victoria, and as Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Gold Fields 1853-4 and Territorial Magistrate 1855 etc.

In 1859 he published "The Author's Australian Autobiography" and in 1864 "Prometheus, the Fire-Bringer", a dramatic poem.

In 1866 he published "The South-Sea Sisters"

Horne remained in Australia until 1869 and then returned to England in the sailing ship "Lady Jocelyn" and published The Lady Jocelyn's Weekly Mail.

In 1874 he received a Civil List Pension of £50 per year and which was increased to £100 before Beaconsfield went out of office.

He continued to write verse and prose for magazines in his later years.

He died at Margate and was buried there on the 18th March 1884.

His literary Executor was H. Buxton Forman Horne was a talented, energetic and versatile writer. His epic and his early tragedies have much force and fire but they are not born for immortality. He was a good musician, played excellently on the guitar, sang well, and was a marvellous whistler. He was an expert swimmer.

In the bush (Australia) he met a Mr. Hengist whose name he took.

(14,034) Anything of the careers of Frederick Horne, born 1806, and James Horne, born 1808, brothers of Richard H. Horne (1803-1884), author of "Orion," and other works.—G. H. K. M., S.W.I.

Notes & Queries 6 Dec. 1930

RICHARD HENGIST HORNE. — I shall be grateful for any special information concerning Richard Hengist Horne (1803-1884)—and especially regarding letters and manuscripts (whether published or not.)

ERIC J. SHUMAKER.
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Columbus, Ohio.

Notes & Queries 18 April 1931.

RICHARD HENGIST (OR HENRY) HORNE (clix. 406).—If Mr. ERIC J. SHUMAKER consults the 'Dictionary of National Biography' he will find a three-column biography by A. H. Bullen of the author he is seeking information about. Mr. Bullen concludes his article on Horne as follows:—"Horne had his affectations. When he went out to Australia he was 'Richard Henry,' but he came back 'Richard Hengist.' In the bush he had met a Mr. Hengist, whose name he took." A complete list of his works is to be found in the article. R. H. Horne resided in Australia from 1852 to 1869, as Commissioner of Lands. The 'Encyclopaedia Britannica' has a short paragraph about him and the 'Cambridge History of English Literature,' vols. xii, xiii and xiv contains references to him. The following articles were published in connection with him:—

Tullock, W. W. 'Poetry of Horne,' St. James Magazine, vol. xxxviii, p. 370.

Gould, E. P. 'Horne and Mrs. Browning,' Critic, vol. iv, p. 245.

Gosse, E. 'Recollections of R. H. Horne,' North American Review, vol. clxviii, p. 490.

Stoddard, C. W. 'Concerning an old Australian,' in 'Exits and Entrances,' a book of essays and sketches, 1903 (Lothrop), pp. 177-188.

Sydney, N.S.W.

W. M. HURRY.

Richard Hengist Horne's Chairman of the Urban Club which held its meetings at St John's Gate.

----- How much and how justly admired are the ballads and poems of young Chatterton ----- and he is handed down to us as the marvellous boy; while the name of young Ireland, who at the same age committed a similar literary forgery, is never mentioned without opprobrium and very rarely mentioned at all. ----- These two boys, each of the age of about eighteen, put forth their productions as discoveries of old original MSS.; and all the so-called 'best judges', with a very few exceptions, pronounced them authentic and of the most intrinsic merit, As to the genius of the two boys, young Ireland was ~~not~~ certainly not in any degree to be compared with Chatterton; but this is not the question.

Each of them pretended to have found some old original MSS., and no doubt the idea of "forgery" and wrong-doing in any serious sense had never been intended - probably such a view of the act had never crossed their minds. But having done it, and found the effect surpass all they had anticipated, they were afraid at once to confess the truth, and allowed themselves to be carried on with the force of circumstances they had in some sort innocently created. But one has been forgiven and admired; the other was persecuted or held in odium through life, and has not been forgiven in his grave.

Why this odium has been attached only to young Ireland is quite explicable, as it seems to me. In the case of Chatterton, men of distinction did not peril their judgments nor hotly enter into contests; and the melancholly suicide of the poor young poet, together with his undoubted genius, disarmed all hostility, and has cast a pathetic interest over his memory. But young Ireland was said to have "taken in" some of the first men of the day (ie they took themselves in, by pretending to a judgment which they did not possess), and a hot contest ensued - Dr. Parr, the great Greek scholar, heading the enthusiastic party of believers in the authenticity of the newly-

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discovered MSS. of Shakespeare, and John Kemble heading the party who pronounced them spurious.

In early youth I chanced to make the acquaintance of Samuel Ireland (Wm. Hy. Ireland) at a bookseller's shop in the Hampstead Road. * He was then somewhat in years but a strikingly handsome man; and with a mass of iron-grey hair hanging over the collar of a dark blue frogged and braided coat, he had very much the appearance of a sun-burned general officer. He had been residing for many years in Paris, of his boyhood error and its injurious consequences he often used to relate many interesting anecdotes.

----- Young Ireland left the country and settled himself in France. While on his rambles he chanced to meet with the pretty widow of Admiral B --- (Capt. Paget Bayly R.N.) who speedily fell in love with him. They were married soon after, went to Paris, and by mutual consent enjoyed themselves amidst all its gaities, and spent every farthing they possessed in a very short time.

W.H.I. M.S.
friendly with
Capt. Paget
Bayly at his
wife while
the husband
was alive
8th.
probably
not till 1809
but she
cohabited
with Ireland
after Bayly's
death.

During various struggles to make a living, Ireland became an excellent French scholar and eventually displayed this by emulating his first unfortunate success in England. He now published the love-songs of the poet Chatelet to Mary Queen of Scots which were assumed to be, and generally believed to be authentic. (I have been able to show that both 'Chatelar' and Ireland's 'Rizzio' are authentic see N. & Q. for March 14th. 1925. G.H.L.) One or two of these compositions I have seen and found them to be full of tender elegance. No wonder the booksellers caught at them.

After a time Ireland got himself presented to Napoleon I. and had some appointment given him in the Public Libraries. With the fall of the most-admired and best abused genius of his age, Ireland suddenly left Paris - "had to fly" he said - and came to London. -----

Ireland at this time was living with his wife and daughters at Camden Town (Upper Park Street. G.H.L.) He was naturally

* Probably James Caulfield's Shop

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of a genial spirit and a long residence in Paris had given a fine tone of lively French elegance to the whole family. He evidently preferred the society of young people and at his house were met artists and artistes of various kinds all "on their promotion", and students in literature, poetry and science, together with a racy sprinkling of French and Spanish political refugees, all singing agreeably or playing the guitar.

Among these was the Marquis de Maubreuil the least genial of the visitors, the young Baron Las Cases (son of Count Las Cases author of the St. Helena Journal) Balsir Chatterton, the late harpist to the Queen, several students of the Royal Academy and among them Sam D—— (rummond) son of the painter of the 'Death of Nelson' also the Hon. G—— F——, a near relation of the Earl of Anglesea, Dr. Stone at that time celebrated for his attacks upon the phrenologists, and a nice floral sprinkling of young-lady aspirants in painting and music. *my two artist uncles were sometimes at these gatherings (John & Richard Hilder) G.H.*

The 'board' was always merry, hospitable, and kindly, and presented that sort of easy art-life so rarely found in England.

If the principal dish at supper consisted of roasted apples or baked pears, with side-plates of tomatoes and radishes, there were no apologies. If the salad bowl had been broken in the morning, there was a capital salad served in a cracked soup-tureen, or something else — But no foolish apologies. The thing furnished a subject for merriment.

Ireland was not eloquent but he had a good flow of words, sometimes "talked like a book" and often expressed himself with great energy and a special gesticulation that most people would consider rather extravagant. For instance having a fine fall of iron-grey hair he would suddenly enhance his delivery by raising both hands with his fingers grasping his hair on each side, so that those who saw this for the first time, made sure he was about to tear out two handfuls.

He varied his alarming effects by occasionally setting

where he served as Commissioner of the Land Office
in Victoria and as Commissioner of Crownlands
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one leg and foot at work upon the floor with a short nervous, up and down action, noiseless in itself, but making everything shake upon the table; and sometimes the whole room shook. One day he beckoned a young man aside who had recently left the Royal Military College Sandhurst and closing the door of his study, said to him in an undertone full of vague meanings -

"You have read 'A Voice from St. Helena?'"

"I have" replied the cadet

"And the Journal of Count Las Cases?"

"Yes"

"My God, Sir did you ever" (up went both hands, like wild claws into his hair) "did you ever read such things before in your life?"

"I certainly never did"

"Now apart from country - sinking the question of English and French, and merely looking at it as the treatment of a great, a noble, a once all powerful foe -- isn't it enough to make the blood boil, sir, -- to read of such atrocities of persecution as the great Napoleon experienced from that gaoler Sir Hudson Lowe?"

His eyes flashed, his cheek and forehead flashed, the clutching fingers were slowly withdrawn from his hair, and the right knee began to work rapidly up and down till the pens, penwiper, paper-knife, and every other light article danced upon the table.

"It certainly was by no means to the honour of England" said the juvenile soldier, after a pause.

"Honour! - an eternal disgrace! - the whole country disgraced by this one man. Wouldn't ^{you} like to see him shot?"

"Well no; I daresay he thought he was doing his duty, and under very trying circumstances; though he did it shockingly at times."

"Wouldn't you like to see him horse-whipped?"

"By one of the Emperor's relations?"

"By anybody, sir!"

"Pardon me, no; only by some who" —

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"Who felt a deep interest in the Emperor. He slowly and tormentingly murdered the Emperor — Wasn't he murdered by inches ? Yes, you would like to see one of his dearest and most devoted friends and followers — one of the voluntary companions of his exile — cane, thrash, horse-whip that, State gaoler ?"

"I don't know that I should like to see it."

"But you would have no objection to hear of such a thing ?"

"I certainly should not"

"Would you give"— (here the sole of one foot began to work a powerful vibration upon the floor) "Would you give some help to such an act ?"

"What act ?"

"A consummation devoutly to be wished."

"What consummation Mr. Ireland ?"

"Horse-whipping."

"Help one gentleman to horse-whip another ?"

"No, no, not exactly that — I mean help in the sense of saving the avenger — the castigatior — from the lash of the Law, if the State gaoler won't fight."

"I don't know, Let me understand."

"You shall — you shall ! My God ! — yes Mr. Richard !"

(Here both hands went up into his hair) "Yes, you may well wish to understand. But it will be done — done, sir !"

"By whom ? — one of the Napoleon family, of course."

"Not of his family" (Here the foot began a strong vibration)

"But one of his companions in exile."

"The old General ?"

"No, not him."

"The French Savan ?"

"No, not the Savan."

"Barry O'Meara, then ?" (Here the vibration of the foot became audible)

THESE ARE THE COMMENCEMENTS OF THE GOLD FIELDS
IN VICTORIA, AND AS COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS
FOR THE GOLD FIELDS 1853-4 AND TERRITORIAL
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"No, Mr. Richard."

"Count Las Cases?"

"You have it, Count Las Cases -- but vicariously."

"Horse-whip a man vicariously, Mr. Ireland?"

"The Count is too much in years, and it would not do to risk --
to risk -- ~~the horse-whip changing hands~~ --

"The horse-whip changing hands?"

"Exactly so; but Baron Las Cases, the Count's son, will be the vicar. You've met him here?"

"Yes once."

"He will do it."

Ireland at this period had chambers for literary business in Clement's Inn, and here he, and one or two more, concocted the entire plan, of which the ladies at Camden Town were to be kept in perfect ignorance till all had been accomplished. It would occupy too much space to narrate how they hired three hackney coaches, two of which were to contain foreign friends who were to do nothing and know nothing, but drive off in different directions at a certain signal; how they waylaid the doomed State gaoler, how Baron Las Cases, armed with a light riding whip, waited till a carriage door was opened, and a gentleman alighted on his arrival to dinner; how the desired event took place, and the agile performer rapidly sprang up the stone steps, and threw his card into the passage after the heels of the retiring personage; how the operator hastily entered one of the hackney coaches (the third) close to the railings of a green enclosure of the square -- getting out of the door on the other side immediately, and slowly walking away, while that coach and the others drove off in haste; how a choice party of five met at Ireland's chambers in Clement's Inn some hours after, to a most excellent supper, at which we all talked and laughed, sotto voce at the same time, and tried to eat and drink, but were in too wild a state

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of hilarity,as well as apprehension of the police -- besides preparations for the Baron's escape out of England -- to listen,enjoy,or understand anything.

Altogether it was a boyish affair,and yet with a touch of the "historical",of which Ireland made the most. His geese were always swans at least;and upon this occasion they were imperial eagles.

The address of Baron Las Cases on the card he threw into the passage,was at the Hotel ~~de Cal~~ de---- Calais,where he was to await with his seconds the arrival of Sir Hudson.

To get him safe on board a certain fishing smack,attired as a fisherman,but looking far more like a handsome young smuggler in a French vaudeville,was safely accomplished at about five in the morning,after driving about for two hours very slowly in every direction but the one intended,by the device of Ireland who acted as strategist throughout the affair,till the flying fisherman stepped into a boat at the foot of Wapping Old Stairs.

It is hardly necessary to say that Sir Hudson did not consider himself bound to avail himself of the address on the card thrown into the passage.

1
Horne's Account of W. H. Ireland and gatherings at
Ireland's house and the horse-whipping of
Sir Hudson Lowe. circa 1830.